United Nations S/PRST/2016/17

Security Council

Distr.: General
16 November 2016

Original: English

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 7812th meeting of the Security Council, held on 16 November 2016, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in the Central African Republic", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council welcomes the steps taken recently on the Central African Republic (CAR) peace process with the signing of the National Strategy on Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration and Repatriation (DDRR), the National Security Policy, the Internal Security Forces Development plan, and the National Reconciliation Strategy, and calls for their swift implementation.

"The Security Council acknowledges the achievement of significant post-transition milestones, namely the peaceful and transparent election of President Faustin-Archange Touadera, the swift formation of a new government and the establishment of the National Assembly.

"The Security Council renews its support to President Touadera and welcomes his significant role to stabilize the country and enable long-term development, with the support of regional and international partners, in particular MINUSCA.

"The Security Council emphasizes that the only viable way forward towards the consolidation of peace, recovery and stability, is that of a political commitment from all parties to address the root causes of the conflict, including by addressing marginalization and local grievances of all the components of society over the whole territory of the CAR. In this regard, the Security Council recalls the inclusive and comprehensive manner in which the Bangui Forum, and the preparatory grass-roots consultations, were held in 2015, and encourages the Central African authorities to demonstrate the same spirit of inclusiveness, including towards women, youth, IDPs and refugees.

"The Security Council recognizes that the continued presence of armed groups represents the country's most immediate impediment to stability and recovery. It encourages the CAR authorities to urgently address this situation through a comprehensive approach, building on the principles and outcomes of the Bangui Forum, including by deepening and accelerating the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation of armed groups (DDRR) and

16-20336 (E) 171116

Please recycle

the dialogue with their representatives, as well as urgently implementing critical reform programmes, in particular the reform of the Security Sector (SSR) and the strengthening of the fight against impunity through the upholding of national accountability mechanisms, including the regular courts and the Special Criminal Court (SCC).

"The Security Council expresses its deep concern about the continued fragility in CAR, and strongly condemns the recent upsurge of violence and instability in the Central African Republic (CAR), in particular in Kaga Bandoro, Bambari, Dekoa and Bangui, during which dozens of civilians were killed and wounded, and national gendarmes were killed.

"The Security Council also strongly condemns the recent attacks against MINUSCA-escorted convoys, as well as any attacks against civilians, intercommunal violence, targeted violence against women and children, lootings of humanitarian premises, and attacks against United Nations peacekeepers and humanitarian personnel.

"The Security Council recalls the State's primary responsibility to protect all populations in the CAR in particular from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

"The Security Council commends the contribution made by the French Sangaris forces in providing operational support to MINUSCA, and whose mission was completed on 31 October 2016.

"The Security Council commends Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) Parfait Onanga-Anyanga and MINUSCA's teams and personnel. The Security Council renews its call upon the Secretary-General, in collaboration with MINUSCA's TCCs/PCCs, to take all possible steps to maximize MINUSCA's operational capacity and ability to discharge its mandate, with a specific focus on priority areas, over the entire territory of the CAR, and calls on MINUSCA to maintain a robust posture, in accordance with its mandate.

"The Security Council reiterates its call on all Central Africans to refrain from engaging in or providing support for acts that undermine the peace, stability or security of the CAR, and recalls that engaging in such acts or providing support for such acts, including acts that threaten or impede the stabilization and reconciliation process or that fuel violence, constitutes a designation criteria for sanctions.

"The Security Council emphasizes the crucial role of the regional States, along with regional and subregional organizations, in the implementation of the sanctions regime in all its aspects, including in particular in preventing violations of the arms embargo and of the travel ban for individuals under UNSC sanctions.

"The Security Council stresses the need to closely monitor developments in the CAR, as well as the need for it to be regularly updated regarding the situation there, including through timely updates from, and regular interaction with, the Secretariat, especially on key issues pertaining to developments in the situation and the implementation of MINUSCA's mandate.

"The Security Council welcomes the continued support from the AU and the region which remains critical for the promotion of lasting peace and stability in the CAR, and welcomes the establishment of the International Support Group for the CAR (ISG-CAR) to assist in mobilizing international support for post-conflict reconstruction and development, as well as peacebuilding efforts in the CAR. In this context, the Council further stresses the valuable role of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) in bringing strategic advice and fostering a more coherent, coordinated and integrated approach in support of CAR's long-term peacebuilding needs with a view to preventing relapse into conflict.

"The Security Council welcomes the recent visit of the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations to the CAR ahead of the upcoming international conference in Brussels (17 November 2016) and emphasizes the significant role that this conference will play to express the firm political support of the international community and to secure essential resources to enable the country to implement key recovery and stabilization priorities during the next three to five years. It strongly encourages contributions that will support efforts to meet the most basic humanitarian needs of the country as well as to stabilize the CAR and rebuild its institutions, including through DDRR and SSR programmes, fight against impunity, and socioeconomic development projects, in line with the country's peacebuilding priorities as outlined in the CAR's national strategy for recovery and peace consolidation."

United Nations S/PRST/2016/18

Security Council

Distr.: General
5 December 2016

Original: English

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 7826th meeting of the Security Council, held on 5 December 2016, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"Following the visit of the Security Council to the Democratic Republic of Congo from 11 to 13 November, the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council, regarding the situation in the country:

"The Security Council is monitoring very closely the recent political development in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and remains concerned about the risk for destabilization of the country and the region as a whole, as illustrated by the violence of 19-20 September 2016, in the absence of a swift and consensual resolution to the current political crisis.

"The Security Council thanks the Government of the DRC, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and all its interlocutors for the fruitful discussions that have taken place during this visit.

"The Security Council acknowledges the political agreement reached on 18 October 2016, and takes note of the appointment of the new prime minister. The Security Council is encouraged by the unanimous commitment of Congolese actors to prevent destabilization and to continue inclusive discussions in order to reach a broad consensus towards free, fair, credible, inclusive, transparent, peaceful and timely presidential and legislative elections leading to a peaceful transfer of power, in accordance with the Congolese Constitution, for the stability, development and consolidation of constitutional democracy in the DRC. The Security Council further calls on political groups that did not sign the political agreement to remain engaged in dialogue. The Security Council welcomes commitments to respect and preserve the constitution in letter and spirit and looks forward to the implementation of further confidence building measures to ease tensions and build consensus.

"The Security Council welcomes the ongoing mediation efforts led by the Conférence épiscopale Nationale du Congo (CENCO) and calls on all

16-21499 (E) 061216

Please recycle

political actors to continue working in good faith and in a spirit of compromise towards a swift political solution, before 19 December 2016, that paves the way for peaceful, credible, inclusive and timely elections as soon as possible in the DRC. The Security Council further encourages the region to pursue its efforts in support of the mediation.

"The Security Council urges the government as well as all relevant parties to ensure an environment conducive to a free, fair, credible, inclusive, transparent elections, as recalled in Security Council resolution 2277 (2016), which includes free and constructive political debate, freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of assembly, equitable access to media including State media, safety and freedom of movement for all candidates, as well as for election observers and witnesses, journalists, human rights defenders and actors from civil society, including women.

"The Security Council calls on the authorities to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially the right of peaceful assembly, and to exercise maximum restraint in their response to protests, and also calls upon the opposition forces, on their side, to show responsibility by ensuring the peaceful character of their demonstrations.

"The Security Council reiterates its call upon all political parties, their supporters, and other political actors to exercise maximum restraint in their actions and statements, to refrain from violence, violent speeches or other provocations and to address their differences peacefully. The Security Council calls on the Government of the DRC to hold accountable those responsible for the killings on 19-20 September 2016 and all violations and abuses of human rights. The Security Council takes note of the recent visit to DRC of the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

"The Security Council stresses the importance for the Government of the DRC and its national partners to take all steps to accelerate preparations for the elections without further delays, including by expediting the update of the voter registry.

"The Security Council is also deeply concerned by the humanitarian situation that continues to severely affect the civilian population in eastern DRC and the persistence of violence in eastern DRC, in particular in North Kivu Province where nearly 840,000 people were internally displaced as of September 30, 2016 and more than 700 civilians have been killed since October 2014. The Security Council urges authorities to hold accountable those deemed responsible for the violence.

"The Security Council calls on the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to take further action, in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, as applicable, and with the support of MONUSCO in accordance with its mandate, to end the threat posed by the ADF, the FDLR and all other armed groups operating in the DRC. The Security Council encourages further cooperation between the Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC) and MONUSCO in tackling this violence and their efforts to neutralize armed groups operating in Eastern Congo.

"The Security Council reiterates its full support to MONUSCO and its appreciation for the Special Representative's leadership in trying to ease tensions. The Security Council urges MONUSCO to fully implement its protection of civilians mandate, including to respond to current and ongoing security threats and reminds troop and police contributing countries of the need for a comprehensive approach and to take all necessary measures to carry out MONUSCO's mandate as set forth in resolution 2277.

"The Security Council welcomes the regional initiatives and efforts by regional states to promote peace, stability and democracy in the DRC, to enhance cooperation towards the neutralization of armed groups in eastern DRC, including the establishment by the DRC, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda of a Joint Follow-up Mechanism, and encourages further action. The Security Council extends its thanks to Angola, chair of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), for the fruitful discussions held in Luanda on 14 November 2016. The Security Council also welcomes in that regard the reform of the governing mechanisms of the PSC Framework, including the decision to hold one annual high-level meeting of the Regional Oversight Mechanism in a signatory State, with a view to strengthening regional ownership of the framework.

"The Security Council expresses its determination to continue to closely follow the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular the security conditions on the ground and the efforts to successfully conclude the electoral process."

United Nations S/PRST/2016/19

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 December 2016

Original: English

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 7848th meeting of the Security Council, held on 21 December 2016, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Peace consolidation in West Africa", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council recalls the Press Statement of the Council members on 10 December 2016, and takes note of the communiqué of the Chairman of the African Union (AU) on 10 December 2016 as well as the joint communiqué of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission, the African Union Commission and the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) on 10 December 2016 regarding the situation in the Islamic Republic of the Gambia (the Gambia).

"The Security Council welcomes and is encouraged by the decisions on the political situation in the Gambia of the Fiftieth Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Authority held in Abuja on 17 December 2016 and the decisions of the AU Peace and Security Council, at its 644th meeting held on 12 December 2016, and the African Union to recognize Mr. Adama Barrow as President-elect of the Gambia.

"The Security Council reiterates its request to outgoing President Jammeh and the relevant Gambian Authorities to fully respect the results of the presidential election of 1 December 2016, to respect the will of the Gambian people and to carry out a peaceful and orderly transition process, and to transfer power to President-elect Adama Barrow by 19 January 2017 in accordance with the Gambian constitution. The Security Council further welcomes the decision of ECOWAS Heads of State to attend the 19 January inauguration of President-elect Barrow in Banjul.

"The Security Council commends the initiatives of ECOWAS, including the visit of an ECOWAS/UN high-level delegation in Banjul on 13 December 2016, led by Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia and Chairperson of the ECOWAS Authority, aimed at ensuring a peaceful and orderly transition process in the Gambia.

"The Security Council welcomes the appointment by ECOWAS of His Excellency Muhammadu Buhari, President and Commander in Chief of the

Please recycle

Federal Republic of Nigeria as the Mediator in the Gambia and His Excellency John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana as the Co-Chair.

"The Security Council recalls its members' request that the security of President-elect Adama Barrow, and that of all Gambian citizens, be fully ensured, and supports the decision of ECOWAS Fiftieth Session in this regard.

"The Security Council further requests that the Gambian defence and security forces demonstrate maximum restraint to maintain an atmosphere of calm in Banjul.

"The Security Council requests the Secretary-General, including through his Special Representative, in collaboration with the relevant regional and subregional organizations, to facilitate, as appropriate, political dialogue between the Gambian stakeholders in order to ensure a peaceful transition of power in the Gambia and in full respect of the outcome of the presidential election as recognized by ECOWAS and the AU, and to provide technical assistance to the ECOWAS mediation where required.

"In this regard, the Security Council emphasises the important role of Mr. Mohammed Ibn Chambas, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNOWAS in the current political situation in the Gambia.

"The Security Council further welcomes and reiterates its full support for the continued efforts of the AU and ECOWAS to promote peace, stability and good governance in the region.

"The Security Council expresses its intention to continue to follow the situation in the Gambia closely."